SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 9th March, 1872.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Aina-i-Aib-Numá-i-Hind* of the 17th February deplores the unfortunate condition of Rajah Soochet Singh of Chumba. The writer thinks it a great pity that Government should have unjustly deprived him of the *musnud* through the apathy and indifference shown to his cause by its subordinate officers, and is surprised to find that, though a long time has now elapsed since his displacement, justice has not yet been done him, and the poor man is passing his days in misery and wretchedness. That the lawful heir should have been set aside, and a person, who had no right to it, should have been invested with the government of the state, is indeed much to be regretted. The writer believes that the case has not yet attracted the attention of the higher authorities, and that on its being brought before them justice will be done to Soochet Singh.

The same paper of the 24th February also alludes to the condition of the Rajah, which is described as being very pitiable.

In connection with Soochet Singh's history, the writer refers also to the case of disputed succession to the state of Malier Kotla; and holds up the matter as another instance to show how little confidence native chiefs and princes ought to repose in the promises and engagements of the British Government, whether written or verbal.

A correspondent of the *Aina-i-Aïb-Numá-i-Hind* of the 17th February invites attention to the following grievances experienced by him in his journey by rail from Lahore to Umballa.

(*a*) When tickets are distributed at the Lahore railway-station, passengers of all ranks receive very harsh and disgraceful treatment at the hands of the policemen, stationed at the door at the time. All persons who go in to get tickets are driven out, without any regard to their rank or position.

(*b*) The ticket-master refuses to give more than one ticket at a time. The writer, who had a brother and an old woman with him, asked for three tickets to Beas, but was told that each man must procure his own ticket, and that, therefore, no more than one ticket could be given him. The man urged that he had one woman with him, who could not appear in public to get her ticket; but the ticket-master persisted in refusing. Hence he was obliged to ask for a single ticket; but here another difficulty presented itself. The ticket-master would not return the change, and insisted on his going to get it from the banker outside, who is in his interest, and who charges three pies per rupee as discount (*vide* p. 86, para. 4, of the *Selections* for the week ending 17th February last). The man was obliged to comply. He received change for three rupees, and then procured three tickets, first going to procure one for himself, then sending his brother to get his, and a third man to procure one for the old woman.

The writer is at a loss to understand why more than one ticket should not be supplied to one man, unless the object is to subject passengers to much unnecessary trouble and humiliation, and, what is worse, to compel Hindoostanee women, who are bound strictly to adhere to the forms of female seclusion, to mix shamelessly with the crowd in order to procure their tickets. As the only object can be to procure the price of the tickets sold, it is not clear why the railway officials should refuse to sell more than one ticket to one person. As in the case of stamp-papers, all men should be left at liberty

to purchase as many tickets as they choose, whether they use them or not. The greater the number sold, the more the gain Government will derive.

The *Agra Akhbár* of the 20th February has been informed that there has been such excessive rain in Hurdui in the month of *Magh* that the *rubbee* crops have been ruined. The heavy rain of the past rainy season had destroyed the *khurreef* harvest. The editor remarks that complaints of excessive rain have recently been repeatedly heard from most of the districts of the west and the east, and that in some of them there have been such hailstorms that numerous fields have been ruined. In Agra, Meerut, Allahabad, and Bhurtpore, according to a correspondent's statement, a fierce hailstorm took place on the 6th February, the hailstones which fell in the neighbourhood of the last-mentioned place being more than a quarter of a seer each in weight. This state of things has caused much anxiety to the cultivators, who are heard to say that if Government fails to be lenient in the collection of the payment of the revenue for this season also, they will be utterly undone.

The same paper notices the proceedings of a meeting of the Azimgurh Debating Club held on the 6th November last. The meeting was attended by a large number of European officers and native gentlemen of learning and respectability, with Mr. Shakespear, the Commissioner, in the chair. The proceedings began with the recital of two essays on the development of agriculture in India, after which the question proposed in the letter of the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, dated 2nd November last, was taken up for discussion, the drift of which was that in each district a ground-plot of 1,000 acres should be set apart for cultivation, first after the best native methods and then after the European fashion, in order to serve as a specimen for the people, the experiment to be confined in its infancy to six districts to be selected for the purpose. The native members, while expressing their approval of the proposal, suggested that it would be much better if the

experiment were to be opened in the Government Gardens in different cities, where facilities for carrying out the plan exist. A portion of the land in each garden might with advantage be devoted to agricultural purposes, which should be conducted both after the European and native methods with the aid of implements and machines of husbandry such as are used in European countries; and free permission should be given to the public to see the experiment, which would thus serve the purpose of a school for the training of agricultural science.

The members then dwelt upon the need of teaching the use of the different agricultural machines and implements to the people, of diffusing a knowledge of the principles of farming and husbandry by circulating Oriental versions of treatises on agriculture such as that published by the Azimgurh Scientific Society and of directing their attention to the benefit which they would derive from using cow-dung, now used exclusively as fuel, for manuring purposes, as well as to the necessity of improving the breed of cattle.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 23rd February has a communicated article in which the writer asserts that the behaviour of the women of Umritsur continues to be as indecent as ever. The men and women are said to be allowed to bathe in a state of nudity at the same tank. The municipal committee is blamed for taking no steps for putting a stop to these abuses. Complaints of theft and swindling are also stated to be frequent in the city. Thieves seize men's things in the open market, and make away with them. Two instances have recently occurred, in one of which a woman, while bathing in a tank, had her clothes carried away by a thief, and in the other a man was robbed of his cap in a public bazaar.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the same date, and the *Najm-ul-Akhbár* of the 24th February, publish the proceedings of the Meerut Debating Society held at 8 P.M. on the 16th idem, in order to express the grief felt by the natives of India at the death of the late Viceroy. The meeting was composed of the lead-

ing native gentlemen of the city, including persons of the official class, who numbered about sixty or seventy in all. The proceedings were opened with a statement of the melancholy event, after which two resolutions were passed by the unanimous consent of all present:—(1) That an address of condolence should be composed in Oordoo, and after being translated in English one copy of it should be sent to Lady Mayo, one to the Acting Governor-General, and one to the Secretary of State; (2) that a subscription should be raised in order to perpetuate the memory of the late Viceroy.

The second resolution was at once carried out. The members present were asked to name the amount which each was prepared to contribute. The result was the subscription on the spot of Rs. 2,185. Several of the native gentlemen contributed liberally; among these may be mentioned Sheikh Ilahee Buksh, who subscribed Rs. 500, Rai Nund Kishore, Deputy Collector, and some other gentlemen. Hopes were expressed that more money would be raised at the next meeting, and it was added that, if an appeal were to be made to all the native gentlemen of the district, a large amount would be subscribed.

In the course of the proceedings a notice was given by Rai Nund Kishore, on the part of the Society, promising a reward of Rs. 300 to any one who would write a history of the mournful event in a touching and pathetic style.

The *Akmal-ul-Akhbár* of the 28th February notices a similar meeting of the *Anjuman* at Delhi, on the 26th idem. The Assistant Secretary collected together all that was published as to the late Viceroy, and read it out to the audience, which elicited feelings of deep-felt grief. As a tribute to the memory of Earl Mayo, it was resolved that a newspaper to be called "*Mayo Memorial Gazette*" should be started by the Society. The *Akmal-ul-Akhbár* approves of the proposal, and expresses a hope that the gentlemen of Delhi will assist in carrying out the undertaking.

The *Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb* of the 23rd February has a communicated article, in which the writer suggests that, in order to avoid the necessity for zemindars borrowing money from native bankers, which is extremely ruinous to them, Government should establish a special bank in each district for their benefit. In the absence of such banks, zemindars, when in need of money, have no other resource than to borrow it from rich mahajuns at exorbitant rates of interest, which in the end results in their estates being sold in order to satisfy the extortionate demands of their creditors. Referring particularly to the zemindars of the Punjab, the writer states that a reference to the records of the tehseel and sudder offices will show that the estates of many of them have changed hands for this very reason, the zemindars being left destitute. The establishment of public banks, where loans may be made to the people at a low rate of interest, will redeem them from this misfortune. It has come to the writer's knowledge that a movement has already been made in this direction at Jullundhur, where a bank has been opened exclusively for the benefit of the zemindars. But the *régime* under which tuccavee advances are made is too strict; for instance, furnishing a security, obtaining the sanction of the Financial Commissioner, and other similar conditions, the fulfilment of which is required before an advance can be made, subject the applicants to much trouble and inconvenience. A long time passes before their applications are sanctioned, during which they are obliged to neglect their business and suffer much loss.

The writer goes on to say that, for several years past, drought, or excess of rain, or unseasonable rain-fall has reduced zemindars to great distress. They have suffered considerable losses, which are aggravated by the excessive amount of interest charged by bankers. Besides the exorbitant rate of 4 per cent. per mensem at which the interest is generally fixed, a premium of three pies per rupee is deducted from the amount lent at the time of making the payment.

Government is asked to take measures for the relief of the zemindars, and to remove the grievance by adopting the suggestion here made.

A correspondent of the *Panjábí Akhbár* of the 24th February, writing from Jugraon (Loodianah), reports the prevalence of theft in that town, an instance of which happened on the 15th February, when the jewels and other property of a prostitute named Saro were stolen in open day. The correspondent remarks that since the transfer of Pundit Kalika Prasad, Tehseeldar, to Delhi, the crime is much on the increase. In his time severe punishments were inflicted on persons of bad livelihood, which had compelled many of them to quit the town.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 27th February, in its correspondence, notices two serious cases of theft in Burhanpore. In one of these, which happened in Mohulla Mahajan, a bunneah lost Rs. 2,000 worth of gold-thread, and Rs. 3,000 in cash; and in the other, which took place the same night, thieves broke into the house of a carpenter and stripped a bride of her ornaments. The police do their utmost in checking the crime; but all their exertions in this direction are futile.

The *Shola-i-Túr* of the same date notices the frequency of thefts at Gwalior. A remarkable instance recently happened at the house of a prostitute, in which property valued at Rs. 18,000 was carried away.

The *Benares Akhbár* of the 29th February learns from a contemporary that drops of blood recently rained at Moradabad. In several mohullas—as Loha Gurh, Deendarpura, and Mohulla-i-Turrashan—hundreds of persons saw blood-drops on the floors and screens of their houses, and on their clothes.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 1st March learns that a young woman at Umritsur, while walking in the bazaar handsomely dressed and decorated, was ravished by a bad character, who

took her to his house in spite of her cries. The writer expresses his surprise at such a daring offence.

The *Mufid-i-Am* of the same date is of opinion that the practice of swimming as a sport, common in most cities, especially in the rainy season, but which is extremely dangerous and causes some deaths every year, should be prohibited by the authorities. He would only encourage swimming as an art, and thinks that it should be learnt by every one, but made use of only in order to save life.

The editor also invites attention to certain other evil practices, which have been repeatedly noticed in the *Selections*, and need not be further mentioned here.

An Etawah correspondent of the same paper writes that on the 10th February two packages of cotton, each containing about two maunds, were stolen from the godown at the railway-station at that city, and that no trace of them has been found. It is a matter of great surprise to the writer that, notwithstanding that police guards keep watch at the station, such heavy goods should have been carried away.

Another correspondent of the same paper, writing from Rajcote, reports that the guard which kept watch at Poorbunder and Nowanuggur was one night suddenly attacked by a band of robbers led by one Yar Mohammed. A fierce struggle ensued between the parties, which lasted for some time, and ended in the death of two of the robbers and their leader.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the same date notices the attack made by a party of robbers on Colonel Hecate, of the 76th Regiment, while travelling in a carriage from Madras to join his regiment at Secundrabad, and the fact of his having been plundered of all his property by them. The editor remarks that incidents of this kind frequently happen in the territories of some native chiefs, and that in order to put a stop to them Government would do well to post police guards at different places on the road, the cost of the maintenance of which should fall on the chiefs.

The *Amir-ul-Akhbár* of the same date asserts that highway robberies are prevalent in Sheikhawati as usual. The thanahdars and other officials, posted by the Government of Jeypore, are in the interest of the robbers and share the spoils. The district of Hissar, including Toosham, Keroo, Bhil, and Bhiwanee, is infested with the robbers, and the exertions of a petty state such as Loharoo, zealous as they are, are quite powerless in putting a stop to their depredations. The police of the British frontier, as well as Loharoo, are constantly busy in searching after the thieves.

The writer regrets that some native chiefs should allow plundering tribes to live in their territories and oppress the people. The attention of Government is invited to the state of Sheikhawati.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Agra Akhbár* of the 20th February, in referring to the establishment of the proposed college at Allahabad, the amount raised for its support from popular subscriptions, supplemented by a grant-in-aid from Government, and the way in which the committee, appointed for carrying out the undertaking, propose to spend it, seconds the committee's opinion that the college should be called "Muir College" in honour of the name of Sir William Muir.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Najm-ul-Akhbár* of the 24th February states that in order to avert the unpropitious effects of the *aurora borealis*, which recently became visible at Jeypore, the Maharajah has sanctioned Rs. 1,800 to be spent in the performance of the *hom* sacrifice and giving a feast to Brahmans.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, *viz.*:—

No.	Name of Newspaper.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
					1872.	1872.
1	*Naiyir-i-Akbar*, ...	Urdu, ...	Bijnour, ...	Weekly, ...	Feby. 1st	March 2nd
2	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 8th	„ 7th
3	*Gwalior Gazette*, ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Gwalior, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 11th	„ 1st
4	*Muhibb Márwár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Jodhpore, ...	Bi-monthly, ...	„ 15th	„ 1st
5	*Supplement to Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Urdu, ...	Meerut, ...	Weekly, ...	„ 2nd week	„ 8th
6	*Rohilkhund Samáchár Patr*, ...	Hindee, ...	Moradabad, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 17th	„ 1st
7	*Aína-i-Aib-Numá-i-Hind*, ...	Urdu, ...	Lahore, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 17th	„ 5th
8	*Pattiala Akhbár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Pattiala, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 19th	„ 2nd
9	*Márwár Gazette*, ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Jodhpore, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 19th	„ 2nd
10	*Muir Gazette*, ...	Urdu, ...	Meerut, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 20th	„ 1st
11	*Agra Akhbár*, ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Agra, ...	Tri-monthly, ...	„ 20th	„ 2nd
12	*Akhbár-i-Am*, ...	Urdu, ...	Lahore, ...	Weekly, ...	„ 21st	„ 1st
13	*Akmal-ul-Akhbár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Delhi, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 21st	„ 2nd
14	*Benares Akhbar*, ...	Hindee, ...	Benares, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 22nd	„ 2nd
15	*Akhbár-i-Alam*, ...	Urdu, ...	Meerut, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 22nd	„ 5th
16	*Supplement to Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 3rd week	„ 8th
17	*Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 23rd	„ 1st
18	*Allygurh Institute Gazette*, ...	Urdu-Hindee,	Allygurh, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 23rd	„ 4th
19	*Shams-ul-Akkbár*, ...	—	Lucknow, ...	Bi-monthly, ...	„ 23rd	„ 4th
20	*Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb*, ...	Urdu, ...	Lahore, ...	Weekly, ...	„ 23rd	„ 5th
21	*Oudh Akhbár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Lucknow, ...	Bi-weekly, ...	„ 23rd	„ 5th
22	*Rajpútána Social Science Congress*,	Ditto, ...	Jaipore, ...	Weekly, ...	„ 23rd	„ 5th
23	*Urdú Delhi Gazette*, ...	Ditto, ...	Agra, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 24th	„ 1st
24	*Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb*, ...	Ditto, ...	Gujranwalla, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 24th	„ 2nd
25	*Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Hind*, ...	Ditto, ...	Lucknow, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 24th	„ 2nd
26	*Kavi Vachan Sudhá*, ...	Hindee, ...	Benares, ...	Bi-monthly, ...	„ 24th	„ 2nd
27	*Najm-ul-Akhbár*, ...	Urdu, ...	Meerut, ...	Weekly, ...	„ 24th	„ 4th
28	*Núr-ul-Anwár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Cawnpore, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 24th	„ 4th
29	*Panjábi Akhbár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Lahore, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 24th	„ 4th
30	*Urdú Akhbár*, ...	Ditto, ...	Delhi, ...	Ditto, ...	„ 24th	„ 5th

31	*Rohilkhuud Akhbár,*	Urdu, ...	Moradabad, ...	Weekly, ...	Feby.	24th	Feby.	5th
32	*Jalwá-i-Túr,*	Ditto, ...	Meerut, ...	Ditto, ...	„	24th	„	5th
33	*Meerut Gazette,*	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	„	24th	„	5th
34	*Rohilkhund Samáchár Patr,* ...	Hindee, ...	Moradabad, ...	Ditto, ...	„	24th	„	5th
35	*Aína-i-Aib-Numá-i-Hind,* ...	Urdu, ...	Lahore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	24th	„	7th
36	*Dabdaba-i-Sikandarí,*	Ditto, ...	Rampore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	26th	„	5th
37	*Pattiala Akhbár,*	Ditto, ...	Pattiala, ...	Ditto, ...	„	26th	„	5th
38	*Kárnámah,*	Ditto, ...	Lucknow, ...	Ditto, ...	„	26th	„	6th
39	*Márwar Gazette,*	Urdu-Hindee,	Jodhpore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	26th	„	9th
40	*Oudh Akhbár,*	Urdu, ...	Lucknow, ...	Bi-weekly, ...	„	27th	„	5th
41	*Nasím-i-Jaunpore,*	Ditto, ...	Jounpore, ...	Weekly, ...	„	27th	„	5th
42	*Shola-i-Túr,*	Ditto, ...	Cawnpore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	27th	„	6th
43	*Matla-i-Núr,*	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	Ditto, ...	„	27th	„	6th
44	*Naf'ul-Azím,*	Arabic, ...	Lahore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	27th	„	7th
45	*Muir Gazette,*	Hindee, ...	Meerut, ...	Ditto, ...	„	28th	„	5th
46	*Akhbár-i-Am,*	Urdu, ...	Lahore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	28th	„	7th
47	*Muir Gazette,*	Ditto, ...	Meerut, ...	Ditto, ...	„	28th	„	7th
48	*Akmal-ul-Akhbár,*	Ditto, ...	Delhi, ...	Ditto, ...	„	28th	„	7th
49	*Benares Akhbár,*	Hindee, ...	Benares, ...	Ditto, ...	„	29th	„	7th
50	*Agra Akhbár,*	Urdu-Hindee,	Agra, ...	Tri-monthly,...	„	29th	„	9th
51	*Núr-ul-Absár,*	Urdu, ...	Allahabad, ...	Bi-monthly ...	March	1st	„	6th
52	*Ab-i-Hayát-i-Hind,*	Urdu-Hindee,	Agra, ...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	7th
53	*Samaya Vinod,*	Hindee, ...	Nynee Tal, ...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	8th
54	*Mufíd-i-Am,*	Urdu, ...	Agra, ...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	8th
55	*Lawrence Gazette,*	Ditto, ...	Meerut, ...	Weekly, ...	„	1st	„	8th
56	*Khair-Khwáh-i-Panjáb,* ...	Ditto, ...	Gujaranwala,...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	8th
57	*Oudh Akhbár,*	Ditto, ...	Lucknow, ...	Bi-weekly, ...	„	1st	„	8th
58	*Allygurh Institute Gazette,* ...	Urdu-English,	Allygurh, ...	Weekly, ...	„	1st	„	9th
59	*Rajpútána Social Science Congress,*	Urdu, ...	Jaipore, ...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	9th
60	*Jalwa-i-Túr,*	Ditto, ...	Meerut, ...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	9th
61	*Khurshid-i-Jahantáb,*	Ditto, ...	Agra, ...	Bi-monthly, ...	„	1st	„	9th
62	*Amír-ul-Akhbár,*	Ditto, ...	Loharoo, ...	Ditto, ...	„	1st	„	9th
63	*Núr-ul-Anwár,*	Ditto, ...	Cawnpore, ...	Weekly, ...	„	2nd	„	6th
64	*Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,* ...	Ditto, ...	Lucknow, ...	Ditto, ...	„	2nd	„	8th
65	*Urdú Delhi Gazette,*	Ditto, ...	Agra, ...	Ditto, ...	„	2nd	„	8th

ALLAHABAD:
The 2nd April, 1872.

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